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Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A data network management system for identifying unauthorized
5 access to a data network service, provided at a service node in a data network, by a user node in said data network, said system comprising:
a data communication means for communicating with an agent at said service node and for retrieving a user access list from said agent, said user access list including at least one data network address corresponding to
10 at least one user node in said data network;
a database for maintaining an authorized access list for said service node; and
a data processing means for comparing said user access list to said authorized user access list and for updating said authorized user access
15 list, said authorized user access list being maintained in said database, an updated authorized user access list based on an updated user access list for said agent.
2. A data network management system as defined in claim 1,
20 wherein said agent is a Simple Network Management Protocol agent.
3. A data network management system as defined in claim 1,
wherein said data communication means is a Simple Network Management Protocol communication means.
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4. A data network management system as defined in claim 1, further including means for installing an agent at said service node, said agent having means to communicate with said data communication means.
- 30 5. A method for identifying unauthorized access to a data network service, provided at a service node in a data network, by a user node in said data network, of steps comprising:

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a) retrieving a user access list, for a given period of time, from an agent at said service node in said data network;

b) comparing said user access list to an authorized access list;

c) determining an unauthorized access based on said comparison

5 step b);

d) if unauthorized access determined in step c), initiating a notification process.

6. A method as defined in claim 5, further including a step of updating
10 said authorized access list based on an updated user access list provided by said agent.

7. A method as defined in claim 5, further including a step of
installing said agent at said user node, prior to retrieving said user access list
15 in step a).

8. A method as defined in claim 5, further including a step of
selecting said service node for identification based on a predetermined criteria,
prior to retrieving said user access list in step a).

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9. A method as defined in claim 5, wherein said notification process
further including a step of notifying a Network Operations Console.

10. A method as defined in claim 5, wherein steps a) through c) are
25 repeated, and wherein said user node is selected from one of a plurality of user nodes in said data network.

11. A method as defined in claim 5, wherein steps a) through d) are
repeated, and wherein said user node is selected from one of a plurality of
30 user nodes in said data network.

12. A method as defined in claim 5, wherein said agent is a Simple
Network Management Protocol agent.

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13. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon, computer-readable and computer-executable instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform steps comprising:
- 5 a) retrieving a user access list, for a given period of time, from an agent at a service node in a data network;
- b) comparing said user access list to an authorized access list;
- c) determining an unauthorized access based on the comparison step b);
- 10 d) if unauthorized access determined in step c), initiating a notification process.
14. A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 13, further containing computer-readable and computer-executable instructions which
- 15 perform a step of updating said authorized access list based on user access information.
15. A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 13, further containing computer-readable and computer-executable instructions which
- 20 perform a step of installing said agent at said user node, prior to retrieving said user access list in step a).
16. A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 13, further containing computer-readable and computer-executable instructions wherein
- 25 said steps a) through c) are repeated, and wherein said user node is selected from one of a plurality of user nodes in said data network.
17. A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 13, wherein said agent is a Simple Network Management Protocol agent.
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18. In a computer for use in a data network, said computer comprising:
- a storage means;
- a central processing unit;

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a data communication means for communicating with an agent at a service node and for retrieving a user access list from said agent, said user access list including at least one data network address corresponding to at least one user node in said data network;

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said storage means having a database for maintaining an authorized access list for said service node; and

a data processing means for comparing said user access list to said authorized user access list and for updating said authorized user access list, said authorized user access list being maintained in said database, an updated authorized user access list based on an updated user access list for said agent.

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